Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /079 W
----------061636 031259Z /45
R 031100Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2085

USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT TO
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY INVITED TO TOGO

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE PRESIDENCY THIS MORNING, WHERE PRESIDENT EYADEMA MET ME FLANKED BY COLONEL ASSILA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND COLONEL DJAFALO, NO 3 IN THE MILITARY. EYADEMA GREETED ME WITH STATEMENT THAT RADIO FRANCE (FRANCE-INTER) HAD ANNOUNCED THAT OGADEN WAS UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE SOMALIANS. THEN HE SAID HE HAD CHOSEN TWO OFFICERS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE MANAGEMENT COURSE (SEPTEL). THEN HE LAUNCHED INTO A DISCUSSION OF BENIN. AN HOUR OR SO HAD PASSED AND I MOVED TO GET UP, WHEREUPON HE SAID HE HAD INVITED AMNESTY TO COME TO TOGO, I SAT BACK DOWN.

2. HE THEN BEGAN A DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TOGO. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT TOGO HAD REACHED A POINT IN APRIL WHERE THERE HAD NOT BEEN "ANY" POLITICAL PRISONERS AT ALL. THIS HAD BEEN SHORTLY AFTER AN ANONYMOUS LETTER WAS SENT TO AMNESTY IN WHICH GOT WAS DENOUNCED. EYADEMA SAID HE HAD INVITED AMNESTY TO COME
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TO TOGO AT THAT POINT, BUT THEY HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE INVITATION.

3. LATER IN APRIL, GOT HAD DISCOVERED EXISTENCE OF GROUP CALLED ASSOCIATION FOR A MARXIST TOGO WHICH HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL TRACTS AMONG STUDENTS. HE SAID WHAT HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY GALLING

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ABOUT THIS GROUP WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN COMPOSED OF PROFESSORS
FROM THE LYCEES AND UNIVERSITY, WHO "WERE CHARGED WITH THE
FORMATION OF YOUTH," WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE EFFORTS.
HE SAID A NUMBER OF THE PROFESSORS REMAINED UNDER DETENTION.

4. I ASKED HIM WHEN AMNESTY WOULD BE COMING TO TOGO. HE
SAID HE DID NOT KNOW BECAUSE THEIR LETTER HAD ONLY JUST
BEEN RECEIVED AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION JOHNSON HAD
SHOWN IT TO HIM THIS MORNING (AUGUST3). EYADEMA SAID
THAT HE HAD IMMEDIATELY TOLD JOHNSON THAT AMNESTY SHOULD
BE INVITED AND PROVIDED ALL FACILITIES FOR MAKING WHATEVER
INVESTIGATION THEY WISHED. AT THIS POINT, COLONEL ASSILA
ASKED ME WHAT AMNESTY WAS. I SAID IT WAS A NONGOVEFNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN LONDON WHOSE PURPOSE WAS INVESTIGATING
CASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IDENTIFIED
AS PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE. I SAID THAT AMNESTY
HAD A GENERALLY GOOD REPUTATION FOR TRUTHFULNESS.

4. COMMENT: THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN THIS INTER-
VIEW LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON I
WAS CONVOKED WAS TO INFORM THE USG, THROUGH ME, THAT
TOGO WAS GOING TO TAKE THE PLUNGE INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS
WORLD IN THE BELIEF THAT TOGOLESE POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE COULD STAND UP TO INTERNATIONAL
SCRUTINY. PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INVITATIONS, VISITS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME02085
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708102/aaaadiqe.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1406477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY INVITED TO TOGO
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, TO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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